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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

REPORT NO.

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INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY China

DATE DISTR. 1 March 1949

SUBJECT Economic Information: Business and Trade in
Communist-Occupied Tientsin

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1. On 21 February the SS PRESIDENT FILLMORE unloaded a small amount of cargo at Tientsin, but did not take on any.
2. Three thousand (sic) bags of flour and 190 sacks of mail from Shanghai were unloaded at Chinhuangtao*, where Kailan Mining Administration coal will be taken on. Navigation delegates from Shanghai were brought in. No mail has been taken for Shanghai.
3. It is expected that in the future flour from the south will be unloaded at Tangku instead of Chinhuangtao.
4. Ships at Hong Kong will not take passengers for Tientsin unless they have special permits.
5. The Chinese Communists have requested members of the Tientsin Association of Importers and Exporters to report on the nature and quantity of cargoes** now in Hong Kong.
6. Foreign business concerns in Tientsin have presented concerted demands on the Chinese Communists for restoration of communications in order to guarantee a sufficient volume of export cargo. If the Chinese Communists refuse, the concerns will stop all shipments of cargo and all trade will be left to the Chinese merchants.
7. Foreign exchange measures have not yet been decided on. Straight barter is indicated, although the unsettled shipping arrangements leave all in doubt.
8. The North China trade commissar now in Peiping is YAO Yi-lin (姚依林). His deputy is MENG Yung-chien (孟用潜).
9. After a month of occupation the people of Tientsin have become dissatisfied with the Chinese Communists because the Communists occupy homes without paying rent and will not permit gates and doors to be closed. However, the discipline of the soldiers is good, and they furnish their own food.

This document is hereby regarded to
CONFIDENTIAL in accordance with the
letter of 22 October 1975 from the
Director of Central Intelligence to the
Director of Central Intelligence

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10. Unemployment is growing because there is no business. Tientsin looks like a dead town, with everything closed and shuttered. People exist by selling their possessions and by eating hoarded food.
11. The Chinese Communists sincerely desire to preserve the industries of Tientsin, but they are too inexperienced. For instance, the manager of the Chiuta Salt Works, a typical Tientsin industry, claims that he can hold out only for three months at the most. He has good stocks on hand, and is now selling machinery and spare parts.

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* ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ Comment. The 23 February FBIB Foreign Broadcast Information Branch #6, on page B-2, reports that the Chinese steamer GREATER SHANGHAI unloaded 30,000 bags of flour at Chinhuangtao and was then fully loaded with coal.

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** ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ Comment. Presumably this refers to cargoes destined for Tientsin.

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